

**Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA)
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
Aging & Adult Services Agency (AASA) Virtual Meeting
Friday, October 15, 2021**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Commission Chair Schlueter.

ROLL CALL

The commission roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Bomberg, William Bupp, Georgia Crawford-Cambell, Nancy Duncan, Walid Gammouh, Marshall Greenhut, Guillermo Lopez, Joy Murphy, Michael Pohnl, Bob Schlueter, Dennis Smith, and Shirley Tuggle

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED

Sue Franklin, Tene Milton-Ramsey, and Kristie Zamora

AASA STAFF PRESENT

Presenters/facilitators: Scott Wamsley, Cindy Masterson, and Kelly Cooper

WELCOME FROM REGION 2 HONORED GUESTS

Commission Chair Schlueter introduced the following guests from Region 2 who offered a welcome to the commission and information about their services and experiences with the aging network:

- Julie Wetherby, CEO, Region 2 Area Agency on Aging
- Terry Vear, Executive Director, Hillsdale County Senior Services Center
- Danielle Pequet, Executive Director, Jackson County Commission on Aging
- Cari Rebottaro, Executive Director, Lenawee County Department on Aging

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commission Chair Schlueter requested a motion to approve the CSA agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Duncan and Commissioner Bomberg seconded the motion. The agenda was approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF CSA MEETING MINUTES

Commission Chair Schlueter requested a motion to approve the September 17, 2021, CSA meeting minutes without amendments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bomberg and Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Commented [DW1]: Brenda - I am ok if you leave this as is but the agenda was approved with the change and time allotment for Directo Hertel – and happened before her presentation.

COMMISSION CHAIR OPENING REMARKS

Commission Chair Schlueter welcomed all to the meeting offering thanks to the esteemed guests from Region 2 for taking time to present to the commission and for their years of hard work, dedication, and commitment to the aging network and the residents of Michigan.

He also offered the following comments:

- Recommended that the commissioners reach out to Area Agency on Aging Directors to gain insight on the work they do.
- Because of the pandemic, the commission has not been able to have in-person gatherings outside of meetings. He suggested that commissioners take the time during breaks and lunches to get to know their fellow commissioners as it is very beneficial to learn more about each other and the knowledge and passion each commissioner has for this important work.
- He indicated that he will be taking some time away in February for a medical procedure and may not be in attendance at the February meeting. According to the by-laws of the commission, he can appoint an interim chair in his absence.

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING (SAC) UPDATE

As Commissioner Kristie Zamora, SAC Chairperson, was unable to attend the meeting, Chair Schlueter read her updates which are attached to these minutes.

CSA ADVOCACY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Commissioner Duncan, Advocacy Committee Chair, provided an update on the work of the committee:

- Acknowledged and thanked Advocacy Committee members - Commissioners Bomberg, Crawford-Cambell, Lopez, and Murphy (a recent addition to the committee, starting in November).
- Currently studying and talking about what resources the commission should advocate for in the governor's FY2023 budget. The budget will be presented in February, so typically more formal work on it would be done in December by the governor's office. She encouraged members to think about what they would like to see for commission advocacy for FY2023 and bring those suggestions to the November or December commission meetings for further discussion.
- Committee has been largely focused on discussions around Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) and the Direct Care Workforce. They are extremely grateful that the current budget contains a permanent pay increase for Direct Care Workers (DCW); but recognize there is still a critical need for adequate funding for wages, training, recruitment, retention, and supports for DCWs. This has been a primary area of focus for the committee for additional resources in the FY2023 budget. The committee will also be presenting their recommendations to the CSA at the November or December CSA meeting.
- The committee has been reaching out to other senior service advocacy groups (Silver Key Coalition, AARP, etc.) to gather recommendations for priorities for additional funding in the FY2023 budget. This will help align groups advocating for seniors and strengthen the collective voice for senior advocacy in Michigan.

- The committee has been looking at the rebalancing of resources between HCBS and facility-based services. They have been researching a federal bill introduced by Congresswoman Dingell called the Better Care Better Jobs Act. If enacted, the bill would provide additional federal resources to strengthen HCBS for seniors, specifically in Medicaid programs. It would also provide the following: enhanced Medicaid funding for services, planning grants to states to strengthen access to HCBS and the direct care workforce, and funding for innovative models for DCW. They hope to have more information to share with the commission at upcoming meetings.
- The committee has been in contact with David Knezek, Chief Deputy Director for Administration at MDHHS, as a follow up to prior DCW discussions and recommendations from the CSA. He has agreed to be a liaison for specific CSA recommendations that have been made thus far. He will coordinate activities between MDHHS and the CSA Advocacy Committee for collective work to support each other in the advocacy efforts and priorities.

AGING AND ADULT SERVICES (AASA) SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT

Scott Wamsley provided the following updates:

- Thank you to the AAA Region 2 staff and others in the aging network for their hard work for older adults in Michigan and for taking time out to present to the CSA.
- Governor Whitmer issued a Press Release related to new Executive Order (EO) 2021-14 (press release and EO attached to these minutes) on October 14, 2021, that provided some answers that had been asked by the network about what was going to happen with Aging and Adult Services Agency leadership. He indicated that the Executive Order established a new agency named the Health and Aging Services Administration (HASA) within MDHHS which combines the former Medical Services Administration (MSA) and the AASA to put them under one umbrella. He indicated that this would combine the long-term care supports and services programs, formerly in a bureau within MSA, with the aging programs, formerly in AASA. These programs will be part of the newly created Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports and he will be the Director of this new bureau. Kate Massey is the Senior Deputy Director of HASA.
- This EO moved the state unit on aging services programs, largely intact, to the new administration, with the exception of the Supportive Adult Services Section. This section moved to the Economic Stability Administration, under the leadership of Terry Beurer, Senior Deputy Director. This moves the Adult Services policy section to work more closely with the field operations and adult protective services staff.
- The goal of the integration was to provide a more robust continuum of care and to be sure aging had a seat at the table in all discussions that affect older adults and those with disabilities. This EO will also provide the CSA a more direct line of communication with the MDHHS administration to continue advocacy efforts with Director Hertel's office. Organizational Charts and more information on details will be forthcoming as the integration progresses. There will be a 60-day legislative review process, which makes this effective officially on December 14, 2021.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

Cindy Masterson, AASA Operations and Aging Network Support Division Director, provided information on the AASA 3rd Quarter Grant Services Expenditures. The report materials were provided to the CSA and are also attached to these minutes.

BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Request for Approval of FY2022 Increase Information and Access to COVID-19 Vaccinations Through No Wrong Door Partners Grant

Cindy Masterson provided an overview stating the request is to grant funding to Michigan Public Health Institute in the amount of \$886,836 for the agreement period of November 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022. The purpose of this grant is to support vaccine access-related activities for older adults and people with disabilities through collaborations with faith-based organizations and organizations that serve people with disabilities.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bomberg to approve the request. Commissioner Gammouh seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 12-0-0.

b. Request for Approval of FY2022 Expanding Older Adult Access to COVID-19 Vaccines Grant

Cindy Masterson provided an overview stating the request is to grant funding to Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) in the expected amount of \$1,499,558 for the agreement period of November 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022. This funding was received by AASA from the Administration for Community Living to support AAAs in their COVID-19 immunizations support activities to increase vaccinations among Michigan's older adults.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bupp to approve the request. Commissioner Greenhut seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 12-0-0.

c. Request for Approval to Revise MIPPA ADRC Grants Extended into FY2022

Cindy Masterson provided an overview stating this request is to revise previously-approved award amounts for the MIPPA ADRC grant awarded to AASA in the amount of \$170,611 to reflect the final FY2021 expenditures versus estimated expenditures provided in August 2021. The grant period for awards to the grantees has been extended to September 1, 2021, through August 31, 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pohnl to approve the request. Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 12-0-0.

d. Request for Approval to Revise MIPPA SHIP and AAA Grants Extended into FY2022

Cindy Masterson provided an overview stating this request is to revise previously-approved award amounts for the MIPPA SHIP and MIPPA AAA grant awarded to

AASA in the amount of \$377,710 and \$208,224, respectively, to reflect the final FY2021 expenditures versus estimated expenditures provided in August 2021. The grant period for awards to the grantees has been extended to September 1, 2021, through August 31, 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gammouh to approve the request. Commissioner Bomberg seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 12-0-0.

e. Discussion to Amend 2022 CSA Meeting Dates and Location Schedule

After review and discussion of the requested meeting dates and locations schedule, it was decided that this item would be researched further and formally brought to the November 19, 2021, CSA meeting for further consideration and request for approval.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a. Fiscal Year 2022 AASA Budget Presentation

Scott Wamsley, Acting Senior Deputy Director, and Cindy Masterson, AASA Operations and Aging Network Support Division Director, provided AASA budget updates which included:

- AASA Appropriations and Revenue History – 1975-Present
- FY2018 MDHHS Program Descriptions – prepared by the MDHHS Bureau of Budget

All presentation materials were provided to the CSA and are also attached to these minutes.

b. 4AM (Area Agency on Aging Association of Michigan) Presentation

Dave LaLumia, Executive Director 4AM, gave a presentation to the CSA, to include:

- Recognized Julie Wetherby, Region 2 AAA Director, and host for today's meeting, also on the 4AM Board of Directors, and currently serves as board president.
- Mission of 4AM is collective voice and action to promote healthy aging, dignity, and independence – supporting Michigan's AAAs since 1975.
- 4AM is comprised of all 16 AAAs and every AAA director is a member of the 4AM board, which provides a forum for collective problem solving, information sharing, and advocacy.
- 4AM strongly supports advocacy in the following ways (to name just a few):
 - Organizing and sponsoring Older Michiganiaan's Day – typically an in-person event held at the state capital, but virtual this year, with an entire week of activities called "Senior Action Week". Each day had a separate focus: rebalancing state expenditures, expanded access to home and community-based services, statewide access to affordable broadband, strengthening the direct care workforce, and launching a kinship navigator program. The highlight of the week was Older Michiganiaans Day where there was a livestream event.

- 4AM Supports the Michigan Senior Advocates Council (MSAC) – comprised of AAA-appointed delegates 55+. This council, supported administratively by the 4AM, meets regularly in Lansing to discuss issues of importance to older adults, to develop policy awareness, and to educate elected officials on the intended and unintended impacts of current or proposed public policy on older Michiganders. These delegates are a diverse group which cuts across racial, ethnic, and economic categories who hail from big cities and rural communities.
- In April, 4AM received a request from Governor Whitmer's office on how to best utilize ARPA funding. They have continued to be involved in these efforts.
- 4AM is working with IMPART Alliance and other stakeholders to encourage the department and legislature to support a DCW training infrastructure program financed by ARPA (see attached IMPART alliance handout).
- AAAs are working to improve their own infrastructure and are currently conducting an assessment of their information technology (IT) capacity. This will help identify opportunities for improved IT interoperability with healthcare and create a roadmap to identify future opportunities for improvement.
- 4AM board has engaged a consultant to assess how each AAA collects and utilizes their Information and Assistance (I & A) options counseling and care transitions data. This assessment will consider ways to standardize data sets in these areas and propose design ideas for collection and use of data statewide.
- The Connect to Care program, launched through a grant from Michigan Health Endowment Fund (MHEF), allows AAAs to receive hospital admission, discharge, and transfer notices for all individuals who are enrolled in AAA programs. A learning collaborative was created to help AAAs to understand and use this data to improve their care and to better integrate with healthcare and assist with quality improvement.
- After the Governor's Executive Order, announcing the restructuring of aging services, 4AM released the following statement:

"Governor Whitmer's Executive Order is a major overhaul of the state health care and aging services. As our population ages, Michigan must be better prepared to address a rapidly growing demand for in-home and community-based services, nutrition and home-delivered meals, caregiver support, outreach to address social isolation, transportation, health care and support for older adults who are homebound, and many others. The governor's reorganization moves the Commission on Services to the Aging to the MDHHS Director's Office and creates a new Health and Aging Services Administration. We believe these changes will raise the profile of aging services and lead to the expansion of services and supports needed to promote healthy aging, dignity, and independence. The reorganization will also help to integrate aging policies into all areas touched by MDHHS. AAAs, the statewide network of provider organizations, and the direct care workforce are the boots on the ground in every county and community in Michigan. We value the partnerships we have with MDHHS and we look forward to the enhanced attention and emphasis on addressing the critical needs of our most vulnerable citizens, which this reorganization represents."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Commission on Services to the Aging meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday November 19, 2021, at Hilton Garden Inn, 633 N. Canal Rd., Lansing, MI 48917.

Please note, these meeting are open to the public and anyone wishing to attend may do so. Those needing technical assistance should contact Kelly Cooper at cooperk6@michigan.gov at leave five business days prior to the meeting date.

ADJOURN

Commission Chair Schlueter adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Commission Chair Schlueter.

1. Marjorie Hobe, State Advisory Council Co-Vice Chair from Region 2 and volunteer for the MMAP program, addressed the commission regarding high-speed internet challenges (statement attached to minutes).
2. Pam Sperlbaum, volunteer for Region 2 AAA, addressed the commission regarding the need for more volunteers with the friendly reassurance program.
3. Carol Palmer, resident of Region 2, addressed the commission regarding challenges related to the need for transportation in the area, especially for those with mobility issues. She also stressed the need for help related to the repairs for assistive/adaptive equipment.
4. Kelly Cooley, Region 2 AAA options counselor, addressed the commission related to transportation challenges for daily living socialization activities for older adults and those with disabilities. She also stressed that finding safe, affordable housing for seniors is becoming more and more difficult. She also shared some great things happening in Region 2 – a participant who, with the help of Region 2 and community partners, was able to get transportation for life-saving medical treatments; and a senior who was able to get adaptive kitchen equipment through unmet needs funds, to be able to continue to live independently and thrive.
5. Angie Shepherd, Region 2 AAA Elder Abuse Victims Specialist Program Manager, provided information to the commission on their Safe Haven program. This program provides safety and supportive services to elder abuse victims in Lenawee, Hillsdale, and Jackson counties. She stressed the need for continued and increased funding support to continue these programs. She also reiterated the previous speakers' statements that affordable and safe housing is lacking in the area, as the Safe Haven program seeks to find alternative housing for seniors who are victims of abuse and exploitation. She also stressed the need for more affordable transportation, and the need for more direct care workers to support seniors living independently.
6. Ryan Smith from the Jackson Area Transportation Authority (JATA) addressed the commission about the challenges related to transportation services being underfunded and the problems with denials for transportation due to capacity constraints (they average 27 per week denied). Debra Hyatte from JATA addressed the commission about the new Rides to Wellness non-emergency medical transportation program they offer. She indicates that this is a critical need for seniors, but that funding for the program is severely limited.
7. Tricia Commet from Region 2, supervisor in the housing and transition programs, addressed the affordable and accessible housing shortage. She stressed the need to continue education for aging in place and home safety for those wishing to remain independent. She is also seeing a need for more work in the area of continuity of care, citing an instance when a person transitioning home from a skilled nursing facility had to wait 51 days for medical needs documentation to allow for critical in-home supports.

The public hearing adjourned at 1:34 p.m.